

What's New in the MPDC

SEPTEMBER 2, 2002

DC RESIDENTS URGED TO "WATCH YOUR BAC"

The MPDC is one of dozens of law enforcement agencies in Maryland, Virginia and surrounding states that are participating in "Checkpoint Strikeforce," a drunk driving enforcement effort that includes weekly sobriety checkpoints through the remainder of 2002. Learn more at:

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room; June 26 news release)

Beginning over the Labor Day weekend, the MPDC is stepping up its efforts to combat drunk driving with a new educational campaign that encourages motorists to "Watch Your BAC" (Blood Alcohol Content). As part of this campaign, traffic safety officers are distributing a new BAC assessment tool for consumers called the Guardian Angel Personal Alcohol Test. The credit card-sized test provides a simple way to estimate BAC. (The test does not provide an exact measurement, and the package clearly states that it is best not to drink

and drive at even low BAC levels.) Two test strips are affixed to a "Watch Your BAC" informational card that provides basics facts about DC's drunk driving laws, as well as other consequences and risks associated with drinking and operating a motor vehicle. The informational card reminds drivers that the BAC standard for Driving While Intoxicated (DWI) in DC is the tougher .08 level, but that drivers can still be arrested and convicted of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) at a lower BAC level than .08. First-time drunk driving offenders in DC face up to 90 days in jail, a six-month license revocation, skyrocketing insurance rates and thousands of dollars in fines. Using a federal grant, the MPD recently purchased a bulk quantity of the Guardian Angel Personal Alcohol Tests for distribution to the public at sobriety checkpoints and other anti-drunk driving events. For more information, click on:

View the "Watch Your BAC" informational cards at:

mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/bac_watchyourbac.shtm

mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room)

CROSSING GUARDS NEEDED FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Looking for a rewarding, part-time job helping children in your community? With DC Public Schools opening on September 3rd, the MPDC is still seeking qualified applicants to serve as crossing guards. Crossing guards are needed in all seven police districts to help children get to and from school safely. Crossing guards work four hours a day – two in the morning and two in the afternoon – Monday through Friday, and earn up to \$11.49 per hour. These civilian employees are represented by the National Association of Government Workers collective bargaining unit. Applicants must be US citizens, at least 21 years of age, have at least an eighth-grade education and be able to pass a physical examination.

The MPDC will be stepping up traffic enforcement in school zones, with additional patrols and radar enforcement in all seven police districts. Officers will also be handing out "Think of Me" traffic safety brochures designed by DC public school children.

The MPDC offers a range of employment and volunteer opportunities. Learn more at:
mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ.shtm

For more information, including how to apply, click on:

mpdc.dc.gov/about/employ/FA_0241.shtm

MPDC PUBLISHED NEW GUIDEBOOK ON VIOLENCE IN SAME-SEX RELATIONSHIPS

Many people think that violent relationships occur only among men and women. In fact, violence among same-sex couples happens at approximately the same rate – about one in three relationships experience violence. Domestic violence can victimized almost anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status or sexual orientation. To help combat and prevent the problem of domestic violence among DC's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning communities, the MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has developed a new guidebook on the problem. The pamphlet explains the problem of violence in same-sex relationships and lists many of the common abuse tactics that offenders use. The guidebook also provides contact information on a number of advocacy and social services that can help people who are experiencing domestic violence within GLBTQ relationships. You can read the brochure on-line (in PDF) at:

You can also order bulk quantities of the brochure, or request other crime prevention services designed for the GLBTQ communities, by calling the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit at 202-727-5427, or by e-mailing: gayliaisondc@hotmail.com

mpdc.dc.gov/news/pubs/pdf/glbtc_dvfaq.pdf

UPCOMING EVENTS & REMINDERS

- **Earlier Curfew Hours:** With the start of the new school year, DC's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on weeknights. Effective September 1, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. More details at: mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/curfew.shtm
- **Back to School Safety Awareness Day:** The First District is holding its 2nd Annual Back to School Public Safety Awareness Day on September 7, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Randall Recreation Center, 1 Eye Street, SW. For details, call 202-727-4611. For more school safety resources, go to: mpdc.dc.gov/info/family/schoolsafetylinks.shtm
- **"Taking It To the Streets":** The MPDC's month-long series of health and safety awareness events targeting high-risk and at-risk young people concludes September 6, at Banneker Field, 2500 Georgia Avenue, NW. Among the services provided are HIV/AIDS testing, immunizations and vaccinations, teen pregnancy awareness, career and employment opportunities, military recruitment, mentoring and apprenticeship programs, alternative lifestyles counseling and violence prevention awareness. Get more details at: mpdc.dc.gov (Click on News Room: August 7 news release)
- **Stop on Red Week:**
With its highly successful red-light camera program now in its fourth year, the MPDC will join law enforcement agencies across the nation in celebrating "Stop on Red Week," September 7-13. A kickoff news conference will be held in DC on September 6th.

Information, ideas or comments about this service?

E-mail Kevin Morison, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov.

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